



City of Asheville, NC

Finance Department

Minutes

Finance Committee
March 17, 2009
2:30 p.m., Room 209, City Hall

Present: Councilman Bill Russell (Chair), Mayor Terry Bellamy, Councilman Kelly Miller
Staff: Gary Jackson, Ben Durant, Various Department Heads, Tony McDowell,
Cheryl Heywood

- **Approval of 2/24/09 and 3/26/09 Minutes**
 - Councilman Kelly Miller made a motion to approve the 2/24/09 and 3/26/09 minutes. This motion was seconded by Councilman Bill Russell and carried unanimously.
- **Fees and Charges**
 - A. Proposed Water Rate Increase (Presented by Robert Griffin)
 - Mayor Bellamy made a motion to recommend approval of proposed schedule of water fee increases to full council. This motion was seconded by Kelly Miller and carried unanimously.
 - Mayor Bellamy asked that the minutes reflect the fact that the proposed water rate increase is not a result of the Sullivan Act but has been recommended by staff as a result of research and data council asked staff to provide.
 - B. Review of Other Fees
 - Stormwater Utility Rates (Presented by Cathy Ball)
 - Staff presented options for going to a tiered fee structure for the stormwater residential utility charge. The committee recommended this item be put a future finance committee agenda for further discussion.

- Building Safety Fees (Presented by Mark Case)
 - Committee voted 2:1 in support of the proposed fees.
- Public Works Fees (Presented by Mark Combs)
 - Committee voted 3:0 in support of the proposed fees.
- Engineering/ Transit Fees/Stormwater (Presented by Cathy Ball)
 - Committee voted 3:0 in support of the proposed transit fees.
 - The Mayor recommended that staff add Memorial Day as an additional “ride free” day.
 - Committee voted 3:0 in support of the proposed driveway permit fees.
 - Committee voted 2:1 in support of the proposed stormwater grading permit fees.
 - Committee voted 3:0 in support of the proposed sidewalk fees.
- Parking Garage Rates
 - The implementation of an all day maximum rate (and elimination of the after hours rate) was approved by Council in April, 2008 and is ready for execution now that the new gate equipment is installed. Staff brought this before the Committee at this time for additional review, because staff is sensitive to the impact it may have on the citizens during these difficult economic times. This item will be put on council agenda for discussion.
- Parks and Recreation Fees (Debbie Ivester)
 - Committee voted 2:1 in support of the proposed fees (including golf fees).
- Civic Center (Presented by Sherman Bass)
 - Committee voted 3:0 in support of the proposed fees.
- **Continued review of budget balancing strategies**
 - The committee agreed to seek further direction from Council at the next Council meeting regarding whether the budget issues are structural versus short-term and which budget balancing strategies (service prioritization, compensation options, etc.) staff should pursue to address the budget gap.
- **Establishment of Outside Agency Funding Level**
 - Time did not permit action to be taken on this item.
- **Establishment of monthly meeting date**
 - The committee tentatively recommended setting the standing meeting for alternate Tuesdays, pending confirmation of everyone’s availability.
- **Meeting Adjournment**
 - The meeting was adjourned at 4:10p.m.